



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held July 31, 2007, the Board took the following action:

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Raymond G. Fortner, Jr., County Counsel, presented the attached written report relating to County Counsel's decision to discontinue providing the public with an explanation and justification for recommended settlements proposed by the Los Angeles County Claims Board; and presented the attached report, written in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer, on a process that applies to all proposed claim settlements over \$20,000, that reflects an appropriate balance between the County's responsibility to open government and transparency, and the County's fiduciary duty to the public, including, but not limited to, information on the fault alleged, settlement amount proposed, settlement justification and attorneys' fees expended in defense of the claim.

Karen Ocamb and Dr. Genevieve Clavreul addressed the Board.

Supervisor Molina made a motion that County Counsel report back to the Board with a justification, in a confidential memo if necessary, for discontinuing providing the public the recommended settlements proposed by the Los Angeles County Claims Board and include what cases the justification was applicable to and impacted, and what information the public will receive in the future should this policy be instituted.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a suggestion that Supervisor Molina's motion be amended to instruct County Counsel, in the meantime, to return to their previous policy of releasing information to the public of settlements proposed by the Los Angeles County Claims Board. Supervisor Molina accepted Supervisor Yaroslavsky's amendment.

Supervisor Molina also made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, to further direct County Counsel in collaboration with the Chief Executive Officer's Risk Management staff, to develop a format for inclusion in, or attachment to, all settlement memos that summarize, and make more consistent, the corrective actions taken in response to each case.

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After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed County Counsel to report back to the Board with a justification, in a confidential memo if necessary, for discontinuing providing the public the recommended settlements proposed by the Los Angeles County Claims Board and include what cases the justification was applicable to and impacted, and what information the public will receive in the future should this policy be instituted;
2. Instructed County Counsel, in the meantime, to return to their previous policy of releasing information to the public of settlements proposed by the Los Angeles County Claims Board; and
3. Instructed County Counsel, in collaboration with the Chief Executive Officer's Risk Management staff, to develop a format for inclusion in, or attachment to, all settlement memos that summarize, and make more consistent, the corrective actions taken in response to each case.

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#### Attachments

#### Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor  
Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Chairperson, Los Angeles County Claims Board